

TRIBUTE TO MANNY CORTEZ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a man who has had a tremendous impact on southern Nevada, my good friend, Manny Cortez.

I haven't known Manny for years; I have known him for decades. In the 1970s, when I was in State government in Nevada, he was elected to the Clark County Commission. Since those days our paths have crossed many times. He has served on the board of governors of the University Medical Center, the Las Vegas Valley Water District, and other local agencies.

For the past 21 years, he has been the driving force behind the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority—first as a member of the board of directors, and for the last 13 years as President.

It is no exaggeration to say that Manny Cortez is one of the visionaries who made Las Vegas what it is today—the convention and entertainment capital of the world.

In 1991, the year he assumed the leadership of the Convention and Visitors Authority, we had about 21 million visitors in southern Nevada. This year we are on track to almost double that number, with more than 37 million visitors. This is due in no small part to the brilliant promotional campaigns of the Convention and Visitors Authority.

Under Manny's watch at the LVCVA, our town has seen amazing changes. When he took the helm in 1991, the first of the new mega resorts, The Mirage, had just opened a few years earlier. We had about 73,000 hotel rooms in Las Vegas.

Within the next few years we witnessed the completion of other major resorts, including the MGM Grand, Bellagio and Mandalay Bay. Today, we have 130,000 hotel rooms, along with three major convention centers.

When our Nation was attacked by terrorists on 9/11, the tourism industry took a serious hit. But Manny didn't panic, and under his steady leadership, Las Vegas bounced back.

Manny has been honored many times, by many groups. Travel Agent magazine named him as its Person of the Year in 1999, calling him "one of the most astute marketers in the tourism industry." He was recently named to the U.S. Commerce Department's Travel and Tourism Advisory Board. But I think the recognition that means the most to Manny is the Clark County Elementary School that was named in his honor in 1999.

Manny has also been a leader of the Hispanic community in Las Vegas. His prominence in the city has sent a clear message that in southern Nevada a person can go as far as their dreams and their talent will take them.

Manny has lived in Las Vegas since 1944, when I was growing up down the road in Searchlight. I feel like I have known him all my life. So it is hard to believe he turned 65 a few months ago and that he is retiring at the end of this month.

It is true, though. Manny is leaving the LVCVB, but he is leaving it in good hands. He recently said that his biggest challenge over the last few years has been to stay out of the way of the great team he has assembled, so they could do their jobs. That is the kind of attitude that has made Manny Cortez such a beloved figure in our community.

I salute my old friend on his retirement, and I look forward to our paths crossing for many more years.

THE DONALD W. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation for its strong commitment to preserving our Nation's artistic and cultural heritage.

Three years ago, as a gift to the Nation, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation generously made possible the acquisition of Gilbert Stuart's iconic "Lansdowne" portrait of George Washington for the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, which will reopen on July 4, 2006. In doing so, the Reynolds Foundation not only saved a national treasure but also provided a permanent home where future generations can appreciate this American masterpiece.

The Reynolds Foundation also made possible a 3-year, 8-city tour of the painting. This tour, which visited Las Vegas 2 years ago and is currently in Little Rock, has allowed millions of Americans to personally view a painting that is part of our national heritage.

By providing guides for teachers, newspapers for students, reproductions, reenactors, and history lessons about George Washington, the Foundation ensured an enriching educational experience for young people.

The exhibition of this painting at the Las Vegas Art Museum was not the first time that the generosity of the Reynolds Foundation enriched the lives of Nevadans. The Foundation has given millions of dollars to create the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism and Center for Advanced Media Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, and the Donald W. Reynolds Student Services Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It has also supported medical research and health and human services programs.

It is my honor to recognize the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation's many charitable actions. Please join me in thanking the foundation for its generous gift to our Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STAN COLTON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Stan Colton, a man who has dedicated his life to serving the people of Nevada.

Stan hails from my hometown of Searchlight. In fact, he lives there today, on the same property that his grandfather and father owned. He runs

a little grocery store and he owns the town's original gold claim, the Duplex.

Stan has served the people of Nevada in many different capacities. He was administrative coordinator in the Clark County District Attorney's office, the Voter Registrar of Clark County, and the Nevada State Treasurer.

After he left the Treasurer's office, Stan worked with the Las Vegas—Clark County library district, where he managed the capital construction program that built 21 new libraries. He retired from that job but came out of retirement a few years ago to help the city of Henderson build a new library.

Stan has also been active in many civic groups, most recently as the President of the Henderson Rotary Club. He is stepping aside on Friday evening, and the members of the club will gather at that time to give him a good sendoff and share their stories about Stan.

Please join me in thanking Stan Colton for his service to the people of Nevada and the Henderson Rotary Club.

CINDY REID BIRTHDAY WISHES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, families are important to each of us. When you have children, one thing you wish for is that they will marry someone who will fit comfortably into your family.

My daughter-in-law Cindy is celebrating her 40th birthday. She has become such an important part of the close-knit Reid family that I can't imagine what our lives would be like if my son hadn't married her.

Cindy has been a loving and thoughtful partner to my son Rory, and a wonderful mother to my grandchildren, Ryan, Savannah and Mason.

She is an excellent teacher for her children, and a professional college teacher as well. She is a perfectionist of sorts, and when she sees a problem, she doesn't complain . . . she solves the problem.

Cindy's appreciation of literature is a goal I seek. And her opinions about food, music, movies and politics are always insightful.

One of the great blessings of having Cindy in our family has been the opportunity to become friends with her unique and wonderful mother, Helen, and her thoughtful and considerate father, Dean.

On this the celebration of two-score years, Landra and I wish Cindy a world of health and happiness, and the knowledge that she has our support and never-ending love.

ENSURING QUALITY AND ACCESS TO CANCER CARE ACT OF 2004

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to concerns related to cancer care reimbursement.

Today, many oncology services are paid for through drug administration reimbursement because most are not